

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel without prejudice claim 23.

Please amend claims 11, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 24 and 53 as indicated in the listing of the Pending Claims as follows:

**PENDING CLAIMS**

1-10 (Cancelled)

*JS*  
*E1*  
11. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 1 53 having a plurality of cover connectors extending from the first end to the second end of the tubular body.

12-15 (Cancelled)

*E2*  
16. (Currently Amended) The stent assembly of claim 15 wherein the cover has an outer surface, and an inner surface adjacent a surface of the tubular body, and the first and second sections penetrating element of the cover connector is positioned are adjacent the outer surface of the cover and the third section of the cover connector is adjacent the inner surface of the cover in the closed configuration.

17. (Currently Amended) The stent assembly of claim ~~45~~ 53 wherein the cover is a cylinder about the tubular body, having a first edge extending the length of the cover from the first end of the cover to the second end of the cover, and a second edge extending the length of the cover from the first end of the cover to the second end of the cover.

18. (Original) The stent assembly of claim 17 wherein the cover on the stent forms a cylinder with the first edge abutting the second edge.

19. (Original) The stent assembly of claim 17 wherein the cover on the stent forms a cylinder with the first edge overlapping the second edge.

20. (Currently Amended) The stent assembly of claim 17 wherein the cover connector has two penetration elements, a first element which [first section of the cover connector] extends through the cover at a first location on the cover adjacent to the first edge, and the second element which ~~section of the cover connector~~ extends through the cover at a second location on the cover adjacent to the second edge.

21. (Currently Amended) The stent assembly of claim 45 53 wherein the cover on the stent extends from the first end of the stent to the second end of the stent.

22. (Currently Amended) The stent assembly of claim 45 53 wherein the cover is formed of biocompatible, non-thrombogenic material.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The stent assembly of claim 45 53 wherein the cover is a cylinder within a lumen of the tubular body, having a first edge extending the length of the cover from the first end of the cover to the second end of the cover, and a second edge extending the length of the cover from the first end of the cover to the second end of the cover.

25 - 28 Cancelled

29 - 47 (Withdrawn)

48. (Previously Amended) The stent assembly of claim 53 wherein at least the first ring section of the tubular stent body has undulations and at least one ring connecting member extending between the first ring section and an adjacent ring section.

49. (Previously Amended) The stent assembly of claim 53 wherein the second end cover section is disposed under undulations of the second ring section and on underlying portions of the second ring section.

50. (Previously Amended) The stent assembly of claim 53 wherein a plurality of ring connectors extend between the first ring section to an adjacent intermediate ring section.

51. (Previously Amended) The stent assembly of claim 53 wherein a plurality of ring connectors extend between the second ring section and an adjacent intermediate ring section.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) A stent assembly, comprising:

a) an expandable tubular stent body which is formed of a plurality of ring sections interconnected by connecting support members, which has a first ring section at a first end having a plurality of undulations, a second ring section at a second end and at least one ring section intermediate the first and second ring sections and which has at least one connecting support member extending

between and interconnecting the first and adjacent intermediate ring sections;  
and

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ES  
b) a stent cover disposed over a portion of the tubular stent body including one or more connecting support members between the first and adjacent intermediate ring sections and secured to the tubular stent body by a connecting member having at least one penetrating elements which extend through plurality of undulations on the first ring section which extend over a first end portion of the stent cover.

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(Cancelled)